



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 22, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

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## WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE ON THE DESIGNATION OF A SAN GABRIEL UNIT OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA

This memorandum is to update the Board on the status of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study recently completed by the National Park Service (NPS). The Secretary of the Interior transmitted the final study recommendations to Congress on April 10, 2013. Final implementation of its recommendations requires the enactment of Congressional legislation.

The purpose of the study was to determine whether certain areas in the Los Angeles metropolitan region were eligible for inclusion in the National Park System and to recommend to Congress the most effective way to protect nationally significant resources and provide recreational opportunities.

Pursuant to an April 24, 2012 Board motion, the County took a support position on the draft resource study of 2011, and five-signature letters were sent to the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of NPS expressing the County's support for the draft resource study.

The final resource study recommendations are generally consistent with the draft study of 2011 and include four interrelated components:

1. Designation of a new San Gabriel unit of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The new unit would include areas of the San Gabriel Mountain

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foothills, portions of the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo river corridors, and the western Puente Hills;

2. Additional Federal recognition and support to the Angeles National Forest to steward watershed resources and ecosystems;
3. Collaboration between the United States Forest Service (USFS) and NPS to protect the significant resources of the San Gabriel watershed and mountains, and provide high quality recreation and educational opportunities; and
4. Technical assistance from NPS to interested entities to protect the region's wildlife corridors as well as close-to-home recreation and conservation opportunities.

The National Park Service indicated that the final recommendations offer the most effective and efficient means to provide resource protection and visitor enjoyment opportunities. NPS also noted that the recommendations take advantage of the existing NPS and USFS presence in the Los Angeles area and encourages collaborative programs and shared staffing while reducing overlap and redundancy.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:KL:ma

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist